financial resources and the need to optimize the infrastructure in the existing EPZs, there is at present no proposal to set up additional zones in the country.

Bureaucratic Meddling in Export Promotions

3173. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the bureaucracy continues to torment trade and Industry engaged in exports with outdated procedures and red tape continues to tie up export business in knots;

(b) if so, what are the details of the formalities and procedures which an exporter has still to comply with and discretionary powers enjoyed by the authorities in the Commerce Ministry in respect of *exports ;*

(c) whether Governmentpropose to do away with is hurdles in boosting our exports;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COM MERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. The policies and procedures for exports are formulated in consultation with the con cerned Administrative Ministries. In keeping with the general policy of liberalisation, a number of procedures have been rationalised and the formalities reduced to the minimum. Only those procedures which are absolutely necessary to safeguard Government interests, prevent leakage of revenues and misutilisation of foreign exchange are insisted upon for compliance. A compendium of these procedures entitled 'Handbook of Pro cedures Volume I & H 1992—97' is available in the Parliament Library.

The descretionary powers are resorted to only in very few cases where the strict application of the policy or procedure is likely to affect trade adversely. The Import-Export Policy is kept constantly under review for changes necessitated by the emerging developments in the areas of trade and commerce.

Raid Conducted by Vigilance of Tobacco Board

3174. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that vigilance wing of Tobacco Board booked several traders who indulged in tobacco purchases out side the auction platforms ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the incharge officer of these raids is transferred ; if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) in what manner the board justify the transfer 7

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COM MERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) During 1993 Andhra Pradesh auctions, the Vigilance Squad of Tobacco Board conducted raids on the premises of tobacco traders and detected tobacco suspected to have been purchased outside the auction platforms in forty cases. Further details of cases where a prima facie case is made out and the action taken against them are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) The Vigilance Squad was constituted only for the auction period. There is no regular post of officer-in-charge, Vigilance Wing in the Tobacco Board. Therefore, on completion of auctions in Andhra Pradesh, the officer in the cadre of Auction Superintendent who was temporarily made incharge of the Vigilance Squad had to be transferred. He was then given posting against a regular post of auction superintendent incharge of a platform.

3175 [Transferred to 27th August, 1993]

Import of Edible Oil

3176. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: SHRI SOM PAL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total quantity and value of edible oils imported by the country during the last three years;

(b) what are the item-wise details of prices paid for such edible oil;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government still hold some stock of imported edible oil for releasing in the open market;

(d) if so, what is the procedure for releasing these stocks;

(e) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Agriculture and the oil seed growers association especially the co-operative organisations, have opposed the import of edible oil; and